

THE STROLLER

LOU PARRIS

Just playing?

The owner of the dog that on such division to keep us from uniting on more important issues," he says. "Personally, I will never let my self-identity get so wrapped up in a flag that I turn against my neighbors, and I encourage others to do the same."

The tattered flag hanging from the Masonic building on Main Street in Spartanburg was removed the same day a reader complained about its appearance, and Howard C. Tucker, a Mason, says a new flag has gone up. "We looked everywhere for a new flag, and finally Ben Godwin at Spartanburg Bond Warehouse found one through a Lowcountry business, Carolina Visuals, which gave us the flag free of charge," says Mr. Tucker. "And we apologize for allowing that frayed flag to fly." Carolina Visuals of the town of Smoaks in the Lowcountry even threw in a free state flag.

Odds and ends

Mark your calendars for the sixth annual Greek Festival, a Mobile Meals fund-raiser that will take place Sept. 17-19 at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Spartanburg. The delicious Greek food and parties always are a highlight of the event, and there will be continuous entertainment. •• An American Red Cross community blood drive will take place Thursday from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at Upstate Carolina Medical Center in Coffey. The hospital's

UPSTATE

HERALD-JOURNAL / SPARTANBURG, S.C.

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WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 1
1999

After delays, battles in court

Cleanup begins near former Exide plant

By KATHLEEN DAVIS
Middle Tyger Bureau

GREER — Wearing hardhats and using earth-moving equipment, workers hired by Exide Corp. began removing lead-contaminated soil Tuesday from the Westgate Trailer Park in Greer.

Exide, which once operated a battery manufacturing plant next to the trailer park on Chick Springs Road, hired Advanced Geoservices of Chadds Ford, Pa., to clean the site.

Exide representatives could not be reached for comment.

The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and

DHEC had obtained a court order to take over the cleanup effort. However, Exide received an injunction against DHEC and started the cleanup process Tuesday.

Regulation on Tuesday issued a certificate of authorization to Advanced Geoservices so the engineering firm could work in the state, according to Mark Hough, a spokesman with the State

Department of Health and Environmental Control.

After that agency issued the required work certificate, Hough said, DHEC then issued a necessary sediment erosion control permit.

The environmental agency and Exide have negotiated for years about the cleanup of the residential community.

On Aug. 5, the parties reached an agreement that Exide would be responsible for the actual cleanup work.

But last week, DHEC requested in court that

EXIDE continued on C2

460 Duncan St.

Joe Hines, director of voter registration and elections, anticipates the elections will generate a great deal of interest because of the municipal elections combined with school board races and the video poker referendum.

"I believe there will be tremendous interest in the video poker, and the school board races usually turn out 15 to 20 percent of the voters," Hines said. "It's going to be a busy election."

Hines said the county has about 127,000 registered voters, compared to 83,000 in March 1996.

Much of the increase can be attributed to a change in state law, which allows residents to register to vote while obtaining or renewing their driver's license.

Interest has been generated in Spartanburg City Council District 3, because incumbent Roy McMen-

ELECTION continued on C2

Firemen fill boots to fight muscular dystrophy

By JANET S. SPENCER
Staff Writer

Firefighters who shucked their boots and asked for donations to fight muscular dystrophy got a pleasant surprise Tuesday.

Their musty, wet socks had been replaced by \$12,790.22.

"Fill a Boot," a national fund-raiser sponsored by Jerry Lewis, pits fire departments against each

the region, Horton said.

The money is used locally, and the check will be presented to the MDA Monday in Asheville, N.C. during the annual Labor Day telethon.

The 50 firefighters who participated will be represented on the televised program at 5:10 p.m., Horton said.

Firefighters worked four inter-sections for eight hours Saturday

"One lady and her two small children probably didn't have \$1 to buy their next meal. But each child was so excited to put a quarter in my boot to help Jerry's Kids," Lowe said.

Large and small donations were accepted with appreciation, according to the firemen.

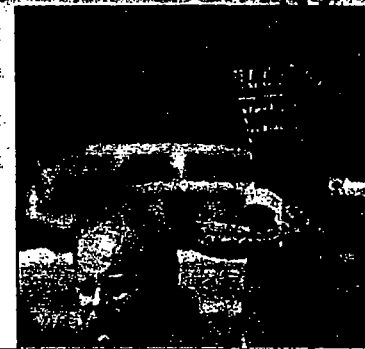
Sgt. Brenda Casey said when traffic zipped past her, drivers would toss change at her boot

our work — that was hot — more than worthwhile," Johnson said.

Lynn Knox, whose husband, Kenneth, is a city fireman, drove her car 57 miles between the four locations, delivering food, water, sunblock and wet towels.

Horton said he had to call the firemen in from their posts by 4:30 p.m. because of the heat.

"Some were close to experiencing exhaustion, and we knew we



Union officials unveil Crime Stoppers program

By MURRAY GLENN
Staff Writer

UNION — If you have information that could help solve a serious crime, authorities are willing to pay for it.

City and county leaders unveiled a new Crime Stoppers program during a morning news conference.

The program offers up to \$2,000 to people who call the hotline at (864) 427-0800 and relay informa-

tion that leads to the arrest of suspected criminals.

"I think any time we have something that relates to the safety of Union County residents then it is a great step forward," said Union County Supervisor Donnie Betanbaugh. "It is a wonderful thing for our community, and I hope everyone supports it."

The telephone line is answered by a 911 operator who takes the tip

and passes it along to the appropriate police agency. Each caller is assigned a number and told to check back with the program in two or three weeks. If the tip pans out, the caller will be told how to collect the money.

Payouts are based on the severity of the crime and the accuracy of the information, said Dennis Russell, director of the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Callers can remain anonymous. Capt. Sam White of the Union Public Safety Department and Union County Sheriff Howard Wells said they hope the program helps them communicate with people who are afraid to pass along information that could help investigations.

Funding for the payments will come from donations and grants. The program, which has been in the

planning stages for about a year, is governed by a board composed of police officers and community leaders.

"I think it will work because of the number of people in the county who are committed to making it work," Russell said.

Murray Glenn can be reached at murray.glenn@shj.com or 582-4511, Ext. 7214.

Public Safety makes plans to use grant

By MURRAY GLENN
Staff Writer

The Spartanburg Public Safety Department will use nearly \$132,000 of new grant money to try to keep children out of trouble.

The funding includes a \$191,956 supplement to the department's "Strengthening our Youth and Families," and it includes a \$140,000 grant to reduce the number of in-school suspensions at Carver Middle School.

The city also is donating about \$96,000 worth of volunteer time and other materials to the projects.

"I think it is great," said Public Safety Director Tony Fisher.

Fisher said the grants are part of

a two-year-old effort to develop partnerships with School District 7 and community non-profit groups.

The programs that will benefit include Houston Elementary's "Family Connections," the Family Care Council of Spartanburg, the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Spartanburg, the Bethlehem Center and the Salvation Army.

Fisher said his department is working with community groups with hopes of getting young people to stay away from crime. He also wants city children to get to know police officers on an informal and personal basis.

"We have seen a tremendous increase in our ability to communi-

cate with young people," Fisher said. The department plans to kick off the Carver project this fall.

Arthur Brewton, director of alternative programs for School District 7, said the partnership already has yielded positive results for his organization in terms of fewer discipline problems and a growing number of student success stories.

"The school district's philosophy is that it takes the community coming together to make a difference in the lives of children," Brewton said.

Joyce Lipscomb, operations analyst for the Public Safety Department, said officials chose Carver Middle School because it has a higher number of in-school suspensions than its counterparts in the city.

"The intention of the grant is to use off-duty officers to work in an in-school program to teach young people crime prevention," Lipscomb said. "The officers will try to encourage the kids to not get in trouble."

The curriculum includes studies of when and where crime occurs around the school and the surrounding community. Social workers also will teach parents how to discipline their kids.

Murray Glenn can be reached at murray.glenn@shj.com or 582-4511, Ext. 7214.



MIKE BONNER/STAFF

Four Seasons Environmental workers remove top soil in the Westgate Trailer Park in Greer. The mobile home park is located next to a former Exide plant.

EXIDE

Continued from C1

the agency take over the cleanup, citing Exide's failure to meet deadlines set out in the cleanup plan.

Exide then filed a motion in a state court in Richland County.

That court's judge issued an injunction against DHEC, preventing the agency from doing the work, and ordered Exide to begin cleanup work Aug. 30.

DHEC's lawyers still plan to "at-

least have some discussion with the judge about the delays," Hough said.

No subsequent hearing has been scheduled yet.

Exide spokesman Ari Levine previously has said workers should finish the cleanup in six weeks or less.

Kathleen Davis can be reached at kathleen.davis@shj.com or (864) 877-3225.

AREA BRIEFS

City planning board to hold special meeting

Compiled from staff reports

Spartanburg's City Planning Commission will hold a special meeting Thursday night to discuss rezoning the Dorman High School property.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

Spartanburg School District 6 is requesting to rezone the 78-acre site on W.O. Ezell Boulevard. The district is asking for the land to be rezoned from residential to business.

Wyatt Development Co. of Aiken is buying the land from the school district for \$15.5 million. The sale is contingent on the district getting the land rezoned.

Once the commissioners make a decision, it will be forwarded to City Council as a recommendation. City Council will make the final decision on the rezoning.

Grand jury indicts two for illegal fires

A federal Grand Jury in Greenville has returned indictments against Brad H. Eller, 20, of Union and James Michael Burrell, 19, of Woodruff on charges that they set illegal fires in Sumter National Forest on Feb. 28.

The maximum penalty Eller and Burrell may each receive if convicted is five years in prison and fines of \$250,000 for each offense. The case was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service, the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Newberry Police Department.

Woman sentenced for fraud charge

Vivian S. Moore, 67, of Campobello has been sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Margaret B. Seymour to five years' probation on a Social Security fraud charge.

Moore was accused of failing to disclose information to the Social Security Administration which would have affected her right to receive benefits from late 1994 to

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877-3332
2651 Bolling Springs Rd.
Bolling Springs
814-0220

PORCH ROCKER
Solid Wood
46" high 24" wide
unfinished

SETTLED

Continued from C1

high-speed chase endangering innocent motorists like Mrs. Brannon.

governing high-speed chases.

"The regulations required officers to get permission to initiate chases," he said. "(Palmer) didn't

June 5, 1996

Mr. Neal Lebo
Exide Corporation
Spring Valley Road and Montrose Avenue
Reading, PA 19605

Subject: Exide Corporation, Greer South Carolina
Off-site Soil Focused Investigation/Study
May 1996 Monthly Progress Report

Dear Mr. Lebo:

The following is the written monthly progress report for Exide Corporation describing the activities conducted during May 1996 on the Off-site Soil Focused Investigation/Study in accordance with Consent Agreement 95-30-HW.

(A) Description of actions which have been taken during the previous month:

The remaining Landowner Consent Form from [REDACTED] owner of Lot No. [REDACTED], was received on June 4, 1996. As previously reported, [REDACTED] has denied access to his property and Exide has requested an alternate sample location, on Lot [REDACTED]. The alternate location is owned by an individual who has already granted approval for sampling on Lot [REDACTED].

(B) Summary of sampling results and other data received or generated during the previous month:

No sampling results or data have been generated.

(C) List of activities completed under the approved Plan during the previous month:

All the property owners involved in the assessment have been contacted. All the anticipated approval forms have been received. An alternate sample location was proposed on Lot [REDACTED] in lieu of the samples proposed on Lots [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] property.

(D) A description of all actions scheduled for the next month:

Following approval from SC DHEC, the sampling will be scheduled.

Redacted pursuant to 54-S.C. §552(b)(6) Personal Privacy

South Carolina
DHEC
Department of Health and Environmental Control

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pam Helton
Management Services

FROM: Pamela A. Baker *AB*
Hazardous Waste Enforcement Section
Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

SUBJECT: Civil Penalty Levied

DATE: July 5, 1996

A civil penalty has been levied against the violator named below. Total payment of the penalty is four thousand one hundred and fifty four dollars (\$4,154.00). Please properly record this revenue for control purposes.

Violator: Exide Corporation

Amount of Penalty Received: \$4,154.00

Administrative Consent Order 96-29-HW

Statute Violated: SC Hazardous Waste Management Act

Disposition of Penalty: \$4,154.00 to General Fund

Payment Terms: The total penalty is four thousand one hundred and fifty four dollars (\$4,154.00). Payment of the penalty is complete.

FMS Data:

EXIDE CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 14205 • READING, PA 19612-4205

MELLON BANK, N.A.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15259

60-160
433

CHECK NO.

2800037409

PAY

DATE

06/19/96

CHECK NO.

00037409

NET AMOUNT

*****4,154.0

FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS

TO THE
ORDER
OF

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPT OF HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
2600 BULL ST
COLUMBIA SC 29201

EXIDE CORPORATION

Catherine B. Thattin

Redacted pursuant to 54-5C-8552(b)(4) Confidential Business Info